



Evangelical Events

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

February 2011

"Preparing People with Purpose"

From the Pastor's Pen

Have you ever heard of the lettuce passages? Really, these passages are not about green leafy vegetables. They are rightly called the "let us" passages because they call us to genuine biblical community. Here are just a few examples of their healthy fare:

"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *let us* use them. . ." Romans 12:6

"Therefore *let us* not pass judgment on one another any longer. . ." Romans 14:13

"So then *let us* pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding." Romans 14:19

"And *let us* not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

"Only *let us* hold true to what we have attained." Philippians 3: 16

"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, *let us* hold fast our confession." Hebrews 4: 14

"Therefore *let us* leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity. . ." Hebrews 6:1

"And *let us* consider how to stir up one another to love and good works. . ." Hebrews 10:24



". . . *let us* also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and *let us* run with endurance the race that is set before us. . ." Hebrews 12:1

"Therefore *let us* be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus *let us* offer

to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe. . ." Hebrews 12:28

"Through him then *let us* continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." Hebrews 13:15

"Little children, *let us* not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

"Beloved, *let us* love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

I can't think of a better way to promote physical health than by eating green leafy vegetables. I can't think of a better way to promote healthy community life than by practicing the "let us" passages with faithful Christ followers, particularly those passages that call us to love one another. May God grant us health and vitality in the days ahead.

Because He Lives,

Pastor Jim



We are in need of a Vacation Bible school director or directors for this summer!



We will train you and the dates for VBS are yet to be set.

Give Talena Wuebbels a call today!
(815-233-5549)



Don't forget to check the kitchen for any dishes that may be yours!



*Listen to your Heart
For within there is an "ear"
Attuned to God's voice!
-Peggy Ferrell*

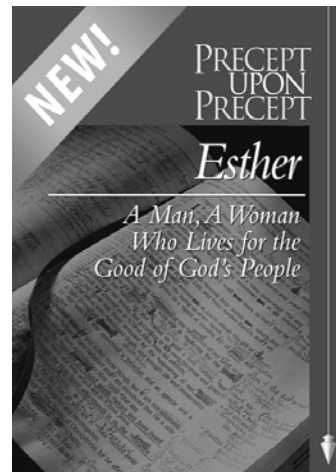


Precept

Precept will not be meeting during February. But...

Esther - A Man, A Woman Who Lives for the Good of God's People will begin on Thursday, March 3 at 9 a.m.

What is your purpose? God is always working in the affairs of His creation, even when we are unaware. This study shows us how Esther attained royalty to fulfill God's purpose in her life and the lives of His people. Can God use you "for such a time as this"?



This will be an 8 week study, 1/2 lesson per week. Early sign-up books will cost less than those for late sign-up. So sign-up soon at the Welcome Center!



Money Talks

—do you find that too often it says "so long, nice seeing you"?

Coming soon to the ABF coffeeshouse will be a class on Money Talks.

Come to listen to the DVD by Jeff Priess and lets talk..

**Sunday 9:30 AM
Fellowship Hall**



I have hidden
your word
in my heart
that I might not
sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

Student Ministries

Can you think of someone who has made a significant ministry impact on your life? If so, this person probably took the time to develop a significant relationship with you. Like my professor always said in college, “**ministry occurs in the context of relationships.**” While I thought this phrase was cliché at the time, it really is true. Looking back, the people who have made the most profound impact on my spiritual life are those who took time to get to know me.

Scripture also affirms that effective ministry happens through relationships. Jesus spent 3 ½ years relationally investing and reproducing himself in twelve ordinary men. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this small group of men went on to change the world. Paul also saw the importance of relationships in his ministry. His letters reveal that he greatly loved and cared for the churches he ministered to. For example, during his three week missionary trip to Thessalonica, his relationship with the Christians there became so deep that he became like a nurturing mother (1 Thes. 2:7) and a concerned father (1 Thes. 2:11) to them. Paul’s affection for these people was so great, that he didn’t just share the gospel with them, but his very life as well (1 Thes. 2:8)!

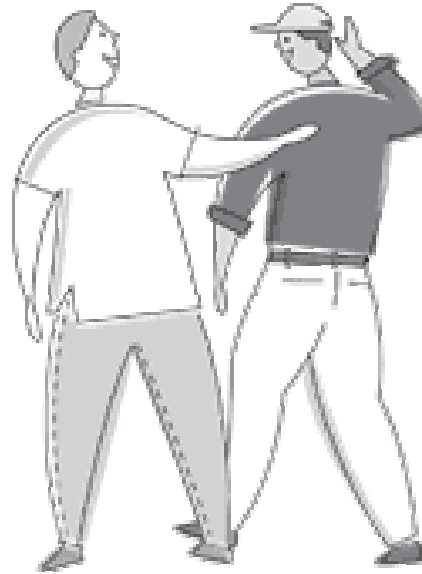
There’s nothing really profound about the idea that ministry occurs in the context of relationships. We know it from experience. But does our knowledge change the way we relate and minister to others? When we settle for surface-level relationships, very little ministry occurs. But when we are intentional about forming deep relationships with others, the opportunity

to strengthen and encourage each other’s faith increases exponentially.

Who are you relationally investing in so that they might become more like Jesus?

Certainly we can’t be relationally deep with everyone, but we must make it a point to invest ourselves in a few people, so that they might grow closer to Jesus and help others do the same.

Pastor Scott



Announcements

Attention Parents: On February 12, First Evangelical Free Church in Rockford is hosting a free, one day conference for parents and students called Uncomplicated. The conference theme is “simplifying sex, love, and relationships.” Speakers include Greg Speck and Molly

Sanborn. If you are interested in taking your son or daughter, you can get free tickets by calling 815-877-7046. You can also visit their website, www.uncomplicated.tv for more details.

30-Hour Famine: March 11-12, Students will begin raising money soon!

Dare 2 Share: April 1-2, Evangelism Training Conference in Hoffman Estates, IL (NW Chicago suburbs), Cost is \$50 per student. www.dare2share.org

Jr. & Sr. High Youth Group
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Missions Morsels

I want to thank those who encouraged me to become the Missions Ministry leader. I felt very unqualified for such a great responsibility. I recently heard a man say, "Just think, out of the billions of people in the world, God chose you for the place of ministry that he called you to, to fulfill his purpose." I now see that it is a privilege to serve God wherever he may place us.

As we begin this new year, may we keep our missionaries in mind and support them in prayer, as well as with our Faith Promises. God bless all of you.

Linda Lindstrom



Mark Bowman

Mark Bowman will be here on February 13. he will be preaching in both services. We are looking forward to hearing about their ministry in Japan.



Tom and Phyllis Bassett

Tom and Phyllis Bassett will be here on March 13. Their prayer request is to pray for the Mennacy Church, that they will be able to call a French pastor soon.



Ben and Jeanne Beckner

Ben and Jeanne Beckner are now back home in Lyon, France. Ben has accepted an invitation to teach an Introduction to Missions and Missiology course at an evangelical French language theological institute in Jerusalem from February 5-20. The course will hopefully serve as the basis for other courses. They will also be investigating opportunities for FSF French short term missions to Israel. This will be their first visit to Israel. They earnestly seek our prayers for this new adventure.



Ernie Manges

Ernie Manges is presently in the Philippines for his annual two month teaching ministry at the seminary, Cebu Graduate School of theology. Most of his students are pastors already active in ministry, but who have never been able to upgrade their education. He will also be preaching several times and presenting a seminar in a large church on Church History. He will also be training new missionary candidates for the EFCA here in the states. Ernie is hoping to come for a visit sometime this summer or fall. Please pray for his safety and for the pastors and missionaries tht will be trained under his leadership.



Osterloo

We received two very delightful boxes in the mail from you. All of the contents made it just fine and we were very excited that it got here before Christmas. There is a new customs agent at the port and he is very organized and trustworthy. Lord willing we will be with you next Christmas. Many thanks from the other side of the world!

The Osterloo Family

Tom and Karen Virtue serving in California



Tom and Karen spent a recent weekend with about 300 college students from up and down the West Coast. They did a couple of seminars as a couple and Tom oversaw all the seminars, a Day of Outreach, and several other facets of the conference. The conference this year centered on 1 Peter 2:9. The Day of Outreach was done on a Sunday, and the 300 college students and the Virtues went to 9 different locations around the city to engage people in conversations that led to speaking about significant spiritual matters.



February Happenings

Super Bowl Bash

Join us on **Sunday, February 6 at 5 p.m.** for our Super Bowl Bash! Bring along some snacks to share and join us in the Fellowship Hall to watch the game together. No matter what team you're rooting for, we'll all have a GREAT time!



I'm Fondue for You!

All couples are invited to the church on **Sunday, February 13 at 4 p.m.** for an evening of fun, fondue and fellowship! Steve Caswell will be sharing some encouraging information for you and your spouse. The deadline to R.S.V.P. is Sunday, February 6, so sign up soon at the Welcome Center!

W.O.W. Women's Study

Join us on Saturday Feb. 26th at Lena Family Restaurant. At 8 am Suzy Erb leads us in an interesting and thought provoking discussion of Nancy Leigh DeMoss's book *Lies Women Believe*. Good company, good food, great discussion—what better way to spend an hour or so on a Saturday morning.



Coming Events for March

March 12—Awana Grad Prix. Awana kids, purchase your cars and get ready to start your engines.

March 13—Bassetts are here speaking during the ABF Hour

Consumed by Stuff

In *the Man in the Mirror*, Patrick Morley writes that the word consumption means something totally different to modern people than it did 150 years ago. Consumption, now known as tuberculosis, is a wasting disease. "Before the advent of antibiotics, tuberculosis could be slowed but rarely cured." Morley writes. "The long-term effect of the disease was to slowly devour—to consume—all the victim's health and vigor."

Today, consumption is viewed as positive for merchants and the economy, Morley notes. But for people mired in debt, "the 19th-century understanding of the term may be more true-to-life." Our wants are consuming us.

To avoid being consumed financially—and spiritually—consider these words from Jesus: "Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:20-21, NRSV)

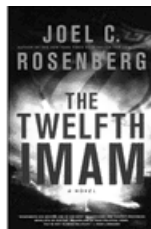
Church Library

Masquerade by Nancy Moser is a historical novel of the latter 1880's. It's a fun fiction featuring Lottie Gleason, a spoiled rich girl, and her maid Dora. When the Gleasons are financially and honorably ruined, Lottie is sent from England to America,



accompanied by Dora. Lottie was to marry into a wealthy family prearranged by her father. The story gains momentum as Lottie and Dora exchange social positions and are separated from each other. Dora discovers money can not buy love. Lottie discovers the honest differences of those in high society and the poor. Both discover that God's purpose for life may be very different than any preconceived ideas. Even though the book is fiction, one will read of sweat shops, hardships of early immigrants, horrible living conditions of the poor, high society indifferences and ridiculous fashions of the 1880's that were true to life.

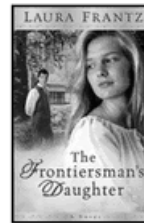
Joel Rosenberg has written another novel of political and religious intrigue. **The Twelfth Imam** takes place in Iran, where devout Moslems await Islamic world power. A bomb could achieve their purpose. The C.I.A. sends David Shirazi to infiltrate the Iranian government and sabotage nuclear weaponry. **The Twelfth Imam**, the long awaited Moslem messiah, appears. As he performs miracles his popularity grows, as does his spread of hatred toward Christians and Jews. Jesus appears to some Iranians and changes their lives, but at a cost to the new converts. Rosenberg introduces his readers to realistic settings through his research, even though the story is fiction.



Grace said all things happen for a reason. Luck did not exist. If so, how could anyone explain the rejection, the mistakes, and the abandonment that Rachelle inflicted on her daughters? The scars ran deep. **A Slender Thread** by Tracie Peterson, is a novel of

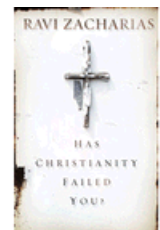
personal and family tragedies. It took a cut up quilt and 5 letters to cause Rachelle's daughters to examine their lives and relationships. The story held interest as each daughter had to fight her own fears and come to terms with God's grace.

If you like romance, you'll like **The Frontiersman's Daughter**. If you like stories with pioneer action and fortitude, you'll like **The Frontiersman's Daughter**, by Laura Frantz. The time is



1770. The place is the wilds of Kentucky, where Indians and settlers are having scrimmages and war is on the horizon. Lael is a daughter of a pioneer who has Shawnee ties. She loves the Kentucky frontier and is emotionally moved by a tall Shawnee chief. A Scottish doctor comes to the area and shakes Lael spiritually and emotionally. When the doctor is stricken by smallpox, Lael's last resort is to try the power of prayer. You'll enjoy entering the rugged life of a pioneer and Lael's struggles with God and man.

Do you want deeper reading?
Are you tired of the novels?
Ravi Zacharias' **Has Christianity Failed You?** (239.7 Zac), may be just what you are looking for. Zacharias explains why many people have given up on faith. Ravi explains the answer to disappointment in Christianity. It may help you regain your Christian strength and is written for both Christians and skeptics. It certainly is a book that gives the reader much to contemplate.



Submitted by Carol Corp





*Put your heart into
a small group*

Mondays with the Baker Group:
(815)947-2108 (every other Monday)
With all Your Heart by R. Vanderlaan

Mondays with the Tawfik Group:
369-5102 (1st and 3rd Monday)
Sermon Study

Wednesdays with the Erb Group:
369-9733 (1st & 3rd Wednesday)
Sermon Study

Thursdays with the Gates Group:
745-2579 (every other Thursday)
"The Reason for God" by Timothy Keller

Thursdays with the Dawson Group:
248-4518 (meet at members' homes)
"Men are Like Waffles, Women Like Spaghetti"

Thursdays with the Hubner Group:
821-3804
Men studying *Doctrine*
Women studying *Girls Gone Wise*

Fridays with the Holverson Group:
608-328-1981 (every other Friday)
Ephesians

Fridays with the Visel Group:
369-9036 (every other Friday)
"Forgotten God" by Francis Chan

Saturdays with the Walter Group:
369-4072 (Every other Saturday)
Radical: Taking back Your Faith from the American Dream

4th Saturday with Women of Wonder:
369-9733 (Uncle Bob's Restaurant in Lena)
"Lies Women Believe"



*We would love to have to have you
join any one of these groups*



We are so blessed to be a part of the Lena Free Church family.

Thank you for all your prayers, visits, food and the lovely plant that now graces my dining room table. Also thank you for the monetary gifts.

Pastor Dwight and Kay Bennett

During a time like this, we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

Family of Edward (Bud) Parks

We'd like to thank our dear friends at Lena Free for all of the remembrances this holiday season, the carolers, the plate of goodies and the many cards. We send our love and best wishes. May God bless each and every one of you.

Gertrude and Herb Booth

Tom and I are overwhelmed by all the cards, letters of kind words and gifts that we received from our family during this Christmas season. We are blessed to serve our Lord with such a great family. Thank you for everything.

Tom and Jean Paisley

We would like to thank the Christmas carolers for coming to our house. Thanks for all the cards, phone calls, emails and your prayers for our recovery. May God bless each and everyone.

John and Verla Folgate

Thank you so much for the generous gifts and encouraging notes during the Christmas season! We greatly appreciate the many ways you minister to and bless our family!

Pastor Scott, Heather, and Grace

Schedules

for



February Birthdays & Anniversaries

Nursery - 8:00 a.m. service

- Feb. 6 Nancy Plager
- Feb. 13 Tom & Jean Paisley
- Feb. 20 Chris & Laura Holverson
- Feb. 27 Kris Visel/Kallie Visel

Nursery - ABF/Sunday School hour 9:30 a.m.

- Feb. 6 Rhonda Schoeny/Tracy Schoeny
- Feb. 13 Christine Woolcock
- Feb. 20 Andy & Ginger Hubner
- Feb. 27 Dan & Kathy Tsao

Nursery - 10:45 a.m. service

- Feb. 6 Pam Becker/Whitney Becker
- Feb. 13 Bill & Barb Duncan
- Feb. 20 Ginger Hubner/Kendra Becker
- Feb. 27 Kathy Diffenderfer/Diane Oxley

Children's Church - 10:45 a.m. service only

- Feb. 6 Donna Hornung/Kendra Becker
- Feb. 13 Jerrid Gift/Alan Holverson/Linda L.
- Feb. 20
- Feb. 27

Greeters - 8 a.m. service

- Feb. 6 Joel & Maralee Kaufman
- Feb. 13 Marilyn Gilmore & Linda Lindstrom
- Feb. 20 Ward & Becky Dawson
- Feb. 27 Maxine Dittmar & Joyce Elder

Greeters - 10:45 a.m. service

- Feb. 6 Bill Hills & Bill Johnson
- Feb. 13 Wayne & Elaine Gift
- Feb. 20 Rob & Cathy Graham
- Feb. 27 Donna Hornung & Vee Clair

Ushers for February * head usher)

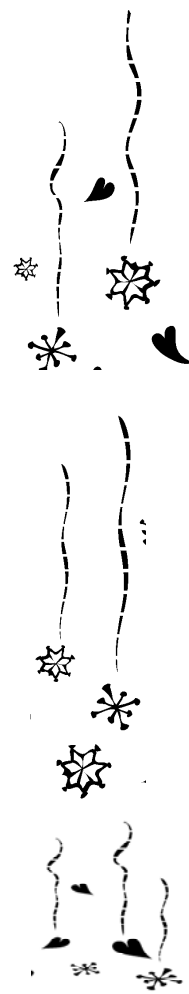
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|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>8:00 a.m. service</u> | <u>10:45 a.m. service</u> |
| *Byron Baker | *Ron Watson |
| Karl Byerley | Dave Becker |
| Doug Visel | Joel Kaufman |
| Samuel Welch | Lee Gobeli |
| Todd Welch | Tim Schoeny |

Birthdays

- February 1 Jim Erb
Joshua Krogman
- February 4 Isaac Walters
- February 5 Elaine Gift
Gary Schroeder
- February 10 Dennis Walters
- February 11 Boyd Boyer
Nicholas Krogman
- February 14 Dawn Crichton
- February 15 Ginger Hubner
- February 17 Bill Duncan
- February 19 Kathy Diffenderfer
Abigail Walters
- February 21 Amy Visel
Gage Zimmerman
- February 27 Steve Myers

Anniversaries

- February 8 Don & Lana Hoge
- February 15 Rob & Cathy Graham



Hi! I'm Mr. Bulletin

I'm hiding somewhere in this newsletter.

Be one of the first three people to find me and call the church Office (815-369-5591), and you will win a prize!

All ages can play along with me!

CALENDAR



EFC of Lena

720 North Freedom Street
Lena, IL 61048
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FAX: 369-4886
office@lenafreechurch.org

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CAR-RT-SORT



“Love
the LORD
your God
with all your
heart...soul
...mind and...
strength.”

Mark 12:30



EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.

Student Ministries
Jr. High Youth Group
and
Sr. High Youth Group
Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Church Staff
Senior Pastor
Assoc. Pastor of Youth
Assoc. Pastor of Senior Ministries
Church Secretaries

Sunday School and
Adult Bible Fellowship
9:30 a.m.

Awana Clubs
Age 3 - Grade 8
Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
September - April

Jim Erb (815) 369-9733
Scott Wilson (309) 371-4645
Dwight Bennett (815) 789-3307
Cathy Graham
Jean Paisley

Contact us at: office@lenafreechurch.org